SITUATION OVERVIEW

The UN estimates that 4 million people – nearly one in five of the pre-crisis population – are in need of humanitarian assistance in Syria.¹

The particularly harsh winter has compounded the suffering of people in need, especially IDPs living in shelters lacking adequate insulation with no winter clothes and no blankets. Lack of fuel and electricity is affecting heating arrangements for non-displaced population.

Over 60,000 people have been killed since the onset of the crisis. Rocket and bomb attacks in urban centres have been reported, including attacks on residential neighbourhoods, markets and aid convoys.²

KEY FIGURES

4 million people in need inside Syria¹

2 million internally displaced persons⁴

554,874 registered refugees in neighboring countries

59,648 casualties² (Mar ’11 - Nov ’12)

2.5 million people in need of food⁷

400,000 out of 500,000 Palestine refugees require hum. assistance within Syria

PEOPLE IN NEED

4 million people in need

By Governorate

FUNDING

519 million requested (SHARP 2013)

19.5 million received (SHARP 2013)

Top 5 donors of SHARP 2012

People in need inside Syria¹

By type

0.3% ERF

1.5 million

4% funded

FUNDING NEEDS AND GAPS

PEOPLE IN NEED, TARGETED, REACHED⁹

FUNDING NEEDS AND GAPS

Health

WASH

Food Security

Community Services

NFIs and Shelter

Education

Livelihoods

Coordination

Staff Safety Services

Logistics and Emergency Telecom.
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Provide relief supplies and appropriate emergency services to those most directly affected by the current events.
2. Provide assistance to people who left their homes as a result of the current situation and to communities hosting them.
3. Support the rehabilitation and reconstruction of critical infrastructure and vital public services affected by the crisis.
4. Address humanitarian needs of the poor who are most affected by the current situation to avoid their further destitution.

HEALTH

Situation

Lack of access to health care facilities/services due to the current events is one of the main obstacles patients and healthcare providers continue to face, in addition to severe shortages of lifesaving medicines. These obstacles impose a significant threat to provision of essential primary and secondary health care (preventive and curative) including: support for chronic diseases, reproductive health, infant and child health, nutrition, mental health services and support to people with disability.

MOH has reported that at end of December 55% of the public MOH hospitals are damaged and 31% of them are non-functional. 10% of health centers are damaged and 6% of them are non-functional. In addition 78% of the ambulances are damaged and 52% of them are non-functional.

Concerns remain over the nutritional status of children living in collective centres, in particular related to reports of micro-nutrient deficiencies. UNICEF anticipates a total caseload of 32,150 children suffering from malnutrition over the next six months, 6,150 of which suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), with the situation believed to be further compounded by the current winter temperatures and disruptions in access to food.

Response

In support of the health authorities health partners provided health assistance to approx. 2.7 million beneficiaries to primary and secondary health care services. In addition medical supplies were distributed to health facilities covering approx. 1.3 million population.

MOH supported by UNICEF and WHO vaccinated 1,300,000 children under 5 years against measles and 1,500,000 children under 5 years against polio during the national campaign conducted from 26th November to 20th December across 13 of Syria’s 14 governorates.

UNFPA conducted capacity building activities for 640 health professionals and community volunteers on PSS/PFA and for 100 health professionals and volunteers from 10 governorates on Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP). RH services including emergency obstetric care and PSS/PFA support were delivered to around 600,000 women residing in violence affected areas; and 40,000 of the affected people received PSS and PFA.

UNICEF supported 8 mobile medical teams to provide medical health care for IDP children in collective centers in 6 governorates: Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Aleppo and Dar’a. 19,206 children were reached with health services. (the target was 14,000).

WHO has provided support to mobile clinics, mobile teams and NGOs providing health care services to 28,952 beneficiaries in Damascus, rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Aleppo and Deir-Ez-Zor. In addition 305,368 medical interventions were provided through the delivery and distribution of medical kits and essential medicines, as well as IEH kits distributed to health facilities to cover the needs of 1.039 million population.

IMC has provided PHC services through 2 PHC clinics and 1 mobile unit. In addition, they are providing MPHSS through 6 mobile teams in 14 collective centres in Damascus and rural Damascus.

UNHCR provided comprehensive primary health care to 60,000 IDPs and supported 400 IDP with secondary and emergency health care in Damascus, Hassakeh and rural Damascus.

Some 14,720 children under five received multi-micronutrient supplementation, and UNICEF distributed 45,000 food baskets to children <5, while 839 children suffering from SAM were admitted for in therapeutic feeding programmes.

FOOD SECURITY

Situation

3 million Syrians are at risk of food insecurity. Recent assessments reveal that a total of 2.5 million people are now in urgent need of food assistance.

It is estimated that wheat production in 2012 for domestic consumption amounted to less than 2 million tonnes (1.95 million tonnes). Total wheat production in 2012 (2.27 million tonnes) represented only 63% of the average yearly wheat production in Syria.

Poor pastoral and agro-pastoral families with small flocks have already lost or sold a significant number of animals, due to limited access to grazing areas, high animal feed prices and insufficient veterinary services. Likewise, many farmers have been unable to plant or harvest crops, as a result of insecurity, inability to afford or access essential farming inputs (e.g. seeds and fertilizer), as well as damaged irrigation infrastructure.

Response

WF and SARC continue to provide food assistance for 1.5 million people in all 14 governorates. In January, WF selected 44 new partners that should allow food aid to reach all 2.5 million people in need in the coming months.

FAO, with the assistance of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, continues to provide assistance to around 165,000 individuals – i.e. 20,500 severely affected farming and herding families. To date, FAO has not received funding to assist the 59,200 families targeted under the food and livelihood components of the 2013 SHARP.

NFIS AND SHELTER

Situation

Many of the 2 million IDPs left their homes with few belongings and have a high need for basic domestic items.

Most of the IDPs are hosted by Syrian families; however support systems are under pressure.

155,535 families (32,380 families), or 8 % of the total IDPs - accommodated in the 626 official communal shelters - do not have the support of family or friends for alternative accommodation. Vulnerability and protection risks are high for all in communal shelters.

There is a high need for cash to support the various needs of vulnerable IDPs to complement NFI and shelter support. For 2013, 40,000 vulnerable families have been targeted for this assistance.

Response

To date, UN agencies and partners have distributed essential non-food items for 550,000 people (110,000 families) – of which 80% has been provided by UNHCR.

Assistance reaches all Syria across lines, although at uneven ratio. Majority of assistance concentrated in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Aleppo and Hassakeh.

Out of 626 official communal shelters, 43 were addressed in 2012 (40 UNHCR, 3 IOM) of which 14 are rehabilitated for 1,200 families. 210 shelters are prioritised for rehabilitation in 2013 – to accommodate 52,000 individuals (10,400 families).

To date a total of 15,342 families have received financial assistance (14,600 in 2012) from UNHCR in Al Nabik, Hassakeh and Damascus. UNRWA also provides cash assistance to Palestinian refugees and UNHCR further to 60,000 Iraqi refugees.
**EDUCATION**

**Situation**

2,400 out of the country's 22,000 public schools have been damaged. 1,960 schools and other public buildings are hosting IDPs across Syria (Ministry of Education/UNICEF). Most affected governorates are Idleb, Aleppo, Daraa, Tartous, and Lattakia. Concerns on decreased attendance by girls and decline in average days of attendance per week have been reported. Quality has decreased due to shortened hours, overcrowding, double-shifting and lack of materials.

**Response**

UNICEF and its partners have provided hygiene kits to 292,506 people. Some 30,000 IDPs in 37 collective centres in Damascus and Rural Damascus have been reached with access to drinking, domestic water, appropriately designed toilets and sanitation services. A further 31 public shelters in Aleppo are being provided with access to safe water. Efforts are underway by UNICEF to trigger large-scale chlorination efforts for water systems to ensure safe water for close to 10 million people for three months starting February across 14 governorates.

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**WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE**

**Situation**

Worsening of the situation reported by the Ministry of Water Resources was confirmed through assessment results in WASH obtained in January 2013. Damage to civilian WASH infrastructure was found to be particularly severe in Rural Damascus, Idlib, Deir-ez-Zor, Homs, Aleppo, and al-Raqqa, and per-capita availability of water supply has decreased to one third of pre-crisis levels, from 75 to 25L per person per day. Worst and deteriorating conditions are a particular concern in collective centres, with unsanitary conditions due to lack of toilets (range 1/50 to 1/70 people/toilet) and lack of water for basic needs.

**Response**

UNICEF continues to support school club activities in 107 schools in Rural Damascus, Daraa, Tartous and Lattakia for 25,500 children, with efforts underway to expand the number of school clubs to 500 in the next 6 months. Some 20,000 children are also now enrolled and benefiting from non-formal education programmes.

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**LOGISTICS**

**Situation**

Fuel supplies has been identified as one of the major challenges facing logistics operations due to the limited availability of diesel in country which oblige authorities in charge of fuel supply to prioritize the diesel supplies to bakeries, hospitals, and schools.

**Response**

WFP continues to provide free common services of cargo transportation, storage and handling for humanitarian partners inside Syria.

New warehouses have been located in Safita Qamishly, and Lattakia.

WFP has established an operational fuel depot, which could provide fuel for humanitarian partners on a cost-recovery basis. 2,664 MT (over 17,000 m³) have been handled (stored/transported) by the Logistics Sector in 2012 for 6 humanitarian organizations in Syria. The relief items transported to locations in Syria include Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Items, Food, Shelter Items, Household Equipment, Hospital Supplies, Agricultural Tools, and Medicines. Overall, 96% of Service Requests were fulfilled by the Logistics Sector in 2012. With the activation of the Logistics Cluster in January 2013, the Lebanon and Jordan corridors into Syria are being geared up (warehousing/transport/staffing).

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**COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**Situation**

Various assessments and reports confirmed the increasing vulnerability of the population inside communal shelters but more notably outside the shelters. Social and protection needs are on the rise among women and children in particular (e.g. domestic violence, separation of children, child labour, early marriage, sexual harassment and abuse, drop out of schools, lack of access to basic services, psycho-social needs).

**Response**

UNHCR continues to support women and children through providing material assistance and counselling services. UNHCR distributed material assistance i.e. winter clothes, under wears, toys to more than 17,000 children. UNHCR provided targeted assistance to more than 5,000 women who believed to be either at risk or victims of abuse. Awareness-raising sessions on GBV related matters have been carried out in number of communal shelters targeting so far 1000 women. Legal assistance was provided to more than 200 women and their children. UNHCR provided at least 40,000 children with school-kits to support families and encourage back to school initiative.

60 representatives of local NGOs on family counseling in crisis. As a result, RH services including emergency obstetric care and PSS/PFA support were delivered to around 600,000 women residing in violence affected areas; and 40,000 of the affected people received PSS and PFA, 60,000 hygiene kits and 42,800 sanitary napkins for women in the affected areas; e) 25,000 vouchers enabling women to receive free RH services were distributed. In parallel, UNFPA was able to build the capacity of (a) 640 health professionals and community volunteers on PSS/PFA.

More than 36,000 children are receiving psychosocial support and protection services, including through child-friendly spaces, school clubs and schools supported by UNICEF, with continuing efforts for training of volunteers on psychosocial support. 28,000 high-thermal blankets, 28,300 sets of children’s clothes have been dispatched for partners to distribute to children in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, and Hasakeh in January, while cumulatively blankets/baby blankets and quilts for close to 71,500 children were distributed in Damascus, Hasakeh, Homs, Rural Damascus and Tartous.